

Appln No. 10/758,558

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

Claim 1 (Previously presented): Apparatus for treatment of a target surface by coating thereof applied from an ejection device, comprising: guidance means exclusively supported on the target surface for establishing linear paths of movement in spaced relation thereto; support means on which the ejection device is positioned for ejection of the coating therefrom; and selectively controlled mounting means for positioning of the support means at different locations along said linear paths of movement on the guidance means from which said ejection of the coating onto the target surface is effected from the ejection device to perform said treatment of the target surface.

Claim 2 (Previously presented): The apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein said target surface is a ship hull and said ejection device is a liquid paint applicator from which paint as the coating is applied to the target surface.

Claim 3 (Original): The apparatus as defined in claim 2, wherein said guidance means includes: horizontal track rails on the target surface; and vertical guide means slidably received in the track rails for displacement of the support means along said linear paths of movement to the different locations.

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Claim 4 (Original): The apparatus as defined in claim 3, wherein said support means includes: a support rack mounted by the vertical guide means in perpendicular relation to the target surface.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein said treatment of the target surface involves de-coating ~~decoating~~ thereof by removal of the paint therefrom.

Claim 6 (Original): A method for treatment of a target surface under selective control of an ejection device, including the steps of: establishing linear guide paths along which movement of the ejection device is guided to positions in spaced relation to the target surface; and imparting vertical and horizontal movement to the ejection device in each of said positions from which said treatment is applied to the target surface.

Claim 7 (Original): The method as defined in claim 6, wherein said treatment involves application of a uniform coating of paint to the target surface by efficient transfer from the ejection device.

Claim 8 (Original): The method as defined in claim 6, wherein said treatment of the target surface involves removal of paint therefrom.